

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITIES, STATE, TRIBAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CLEAN ENERGY TO COMMUNITIES

Clean Energy to Communities (C2C)

The C2C connects local governments, tribes, electric utilities, and community-based organizations with national laboratory experts to engage in customized, cutting-edge analysis of clean energy systems that reflect local and regional priorities. C2C can help close the gap between clean energy ambitions and real-world deployment. C2C fosters community-led innovation with tailored support, from goal setting and project development to technology deployment.

Link: [Clean Energy to Communities Program | State, Local, and Tribal Governments | NREL](#)



RENEWABLE ENERGY IN RURAL/REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas

The Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations ("OCED") has released an opportunity to provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions in rural and remote areas that can be replicated and scaled. Demonstration projects can either be smaller community-scale projects or multi-community large-scale projects. Large-scale projects can be located on a single site or aggregate power generated on multiple sites. Applications must identify at least one area in the U.S. with a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants.

Link: [Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas | Department of Energy](#) Concept papers are due by April 14, 2023. Full applications are due by June 28, 2023.



Energizing Rural Communities Prize

The \$15 million Energizing Rural Communities Prize challenges individuals and organizations to develop partnership plans or innovative financing strategies to help rural or remote communities improve their energy systems and advance clean energy demonstration projects. The Energizing Rural Communities Prize has two tracks, both following a two-phase timeline:

- The **Partner** track—with a \$10 million cash prize pool—will support plans to connect rural or remote communities to government funding, technical assistance, or a network of partners that can help implement clean energy demonstration projects.
- The **Finance** track—with a \$5 million cash prize pool—will support plans to access capital or to develop community ownership models to help finance clean energy demonstration projects in rural or remote areas.

Link: [Energizing Rural Communities Prize](#) applications are due by May 24, 2023



Energy Justice to the People Tour



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of Economic
Impact and Diversity

SOLAR OPPORTUNITIES

Community Power Accelerator Learning Lab

The Community Power Accelerator Learning Lab provides training on community solar project development and business models for small and new developers, nonprofit organizations, cooperatives, intermediary organizations, and other organizations. It includes both a short self-paced 101 course as well as a more intensive seven-week course on the community solar development process. The Learning Lab is run by the Center for Impact Finance at the University of New Hampshire's Carsey School of Public Policy in partnership with NCSP and is available at no cost to participants.

Link: [Community Power Accelerator Learning Lab | Center for Impact Finance \(unh.edu\)](#)



Community Power Accelerator Network

The Community Power Accelerator™ connects developers, investors, philanthropists, and community-based organizations to work together to get more equitable community solar projects financed and deployed. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, it provides training, technical assistance, and critical connections to empower you to expand access to affordable community solar to every American household.

Link: [Home | Community Power Accelerator \(energy.gov\)](#)



National Community Solar Partnership

NCSP is a coalition of community solar stakeholders working to expand access to affordable community solar to every U.S. household and enable communities to realize meaningful benefits, such as reduced energy burden, increased resilience, and workforce development.

Link: <https://ncsp.solarinyourcommunity.org/registrations/groups/39758>



Community Power Accelerator Prize

The Community Power Accelerator is a competition awarding up to \$10 million in prizes with the purpose of fast-tracking the efforts of new, emerging, and expanding solar developers and co-developers to learn, participate, and grow their operations to support multiple successful community solar projects. Competitors can win up to \$400,000 each over three prize rounds by showing notable progress in project pre-development activities.

Phase 1: Awards will be announced in April.

Link: [Community Power Accelerator Prize](#)



MICROGRIDS FOR UNDERSERVED AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Microgrids

DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), on behalf of the DOE Office of Electricity (OE), released a [Notice of Intent \(NOI\)](#) to issue Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), titled "Underserved and Indigenous Community Microgrids." in December 2022. This FOA would coordinate research, development, and implementation of replicable microgrid solutions for underserved and Indigenous communities in remote and islanded regions throughout the United States. The planned FOA is anticipated to include Regional Initiatives to Support Microgrid Deployments within Underserved and Indigenous Communities.

Link: [Forthcoming Funding Opportunity: Notice of Intent to Issue Funding Opportunity Announcement for Underserved and Indigenous Community Microgrids | Department of Energy](#)



RENEWABLE ENERGY ON FORMER OR CURRENT MINE-LANDS

Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land

The Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land (CEML) will demonstrate the technical and economic viability of deploying clean energy on current (operating) and former (abandoned or inactive) mine land. Up to five clean energy projects will be carried out in geographically diverse regions, at least two of which must be solar projects. These demonstration projects are expected to be replicable, providing knowledge and experience that catalyze the next generation of clean energy on mine land projects.

Link: This funding opportunity will open soon:

[Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land | Department of Energy](#)



The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) is also offering no-cost [technical assistance](#) to inform decision-making on topics related to developing clean energy projects on mine land. Technical assistance will vary based on specific project needs/requests and intends to support any phase of project development, including concept development, planning, design, or execution.

Link: [Clean Energy Demonstration on Mine Land Technical Assistance | State, Local, and Tribal Governments | NREL](#)



WEATHERIZATION, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Tax Credit

Homeowners, including renters, who purchase energy and other efficient appliances and products may be eligible for an annual tax credit of up to \$1200. The amount of the credit is 30% of the amount paid for qualified expenditures including certain efficiency improvements (doors, windows, insulations etc.), residential energy expenses (AC, heaters, boilers etc.) or home energy audits (up to \$150). There are limits to what qualifies. Certain solar shingles that serve as electric collectors while functioning as a roof qualify. To obtain the credit check eligibility and fill out IRS Form 5695.

Link: [Making Our Homes More Efficient: Clean Energy Tax Credits for Consumers | Department of Energy](#)



BIL Assistance

Texas LIHEAP is referred to throughout the state as the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). It is a federally funded program that is administered on a county level through various local agencies throughout the state. These agencies analyze applicants' eligibility statuses and needs to provide financial assistance for heating and cooling bills. Additionally, this program allots some of the federal funding to assist with weatherization services for homeowners and tenants. By performing these services for free or for reduced costs, the county can ensure these low-income households are presented with lower monthly utility bills in the future.

Link: [Learn About LIHEAP in Texas | https://liheapassistance.org](#)

STATE, LOCAL & TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program is designed to assist states, local governments, and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. The EECBG Program [opened applications](#) for \$430 million in formula grant funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for clean energy projects and programs in local communities, reaching more than 250 million Americans across the country. Communities can use this flexible source of EECBG Program funding for a variety of projects, such as developing a clean energy strategy with measurable goals, making buildings and streetlights more energy-efficient, creating bike lanes, installing renewable energy on government buildings, funding a community solar campaign, or developing zero emissions building codes.



Link: [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program | Department of Energy](#)

Eligible States can Apply through **July 2023**.

Tribal and Local Governments can apply through **January 2024**.

[EECBG Program Formula Grant Application Hub | Department of Energy](#)



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Renew America's Schools

The U.S. Department of Energy recently announced first-of-its-kind investments to make clean energy improvements at K-12 public schools. Funds will position school districts to make upgrades that will lower facilities' energy costs and foster healthier learning environments for students.

Schools can now apply for the first round of the Renew America's Schools grant, up to \$80 million of the \$500 million program, to make energy improvements especially in the highest-need districts across the country.



Link: [Energy Improvements for Public School Facilities](#)

Full Application Submission Deadline: 4/21/2023

II. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES THAT REQUIRE COMMUNITY BENEFITS PLANS

CARBON MANAGEMENT

Industrial Decarbonization

The Industrial Demonstrations Program will fund projects that focus on the highest emitting and hardest to abate industries where decarbonization technologies can have the greatest impact: iron and steel, cement and concrete, chemicals and refining, food and beverage, paper and forest products, aluminum, other energy-intensive manufacturing industries and cross-cutting technologies. Interested applicants will be required to submit a [Community Benefits Plan](#) to ensure they are meaningfully engaging with the surrounding communities; creating quality jobs and investing in the American workforce; advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and supporting environmental justice. This will help ensure these projects are not causing harm but instead providing tangible benefits to communities that too often have been left behind.

Link: [Industrial Demonstrations Program | Department of Energy](#)

Concept papers are due 04/21/2023 by 5 p.m., ET. Full applications are due 08/04/2023 by 5 p.m., ET.



Carbon Capture Large-Scale Pilot Projects

This funding opportunity provides support to test novel technologies at intermediate scale and under relevant conditions in both the power and industrial sector to: 1) De-risk transformational carbon capture technologies and address community concerns through meaningful engagement and robust analysis of impacts, risks and benefits such as emissions, water usage, and jobs; and 2) Catalyze significant follow-on investments from the private sector for first-of-a-kind (FOAK) commercial-scale demonstrations on carbon emission sources across the power and industrial sectors. The carbon capture large-scale pilot projects funded under this FOA will generate operational data for verification and validation of the commercial potential of innovative technologies, including data on technology performance, non-CO2 air emissions, process models, life cycle impacts, costs, scaling factors, and community benefits or negative impacts of carbon capture technologies.

Link: [DE-FOA-0002963](#):

Mandatory Concept Papers: **April 5, 2023**

Full Applications: **June 21, 2023**



Hydrogen Electrolysis, Manufacturing, and Recycling

Hydrogen Hubs

The Regional Hydrogen Hubs is a \$7 billion funding opportunity announcement to support six to 10 hydrogen hubs. As part of a larger \$8 billion Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs) program Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), this effort will catalyze investment in the development of H2Hubs that demonstrate the production, processing, delivery, storage, and end-use of clean hydrogen—all while supporting President Biden's goal of a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. DOE has defined a four-phase structure for the H2Hubs. DOE will only initially authorize funding for Phase I. DOE's review and evaluation of deliverables reflecting activities in each phase will inform Go/No-Go decisions that occur between or within Phases. Phase 1 will encompass initial planning and analysis activities to ensure that the overall H2Hub concept is technologically and financially viable, with input from relevant local stakeholders.

Link: [DE-FOA-0002922](#)

Submission Deadline for Full Applications: 4/7/2023 by 5 p.m., ET

